

Talk by D. S. Coltrane to The Ministers of North Carolina, Yearly Meeting  
of Friends, at Quaker Lake Conference Center - September 14, 1965

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It is good to be invited to speak to any group of ministers, especially a Friends' group such as we have here today. The Society of Friends has made a very distinct contribution to the cause of better race relations throughout this country of ours, and I am confident that you are continuing this most essential part of your ministry.

My first church membership was at Springfield Friends Church and from there I transferred to Deep River Friends Church. My mother, Martha Anne Stanton, was of a Quaker family, whereas my father, James R. Coltrane, was of a Methodist family. During my early days and years I went to a Methodist Church school on Sunday mornings and a Quaker Bible school in the afternoons. I got some training during these days that has stayed with me down through the years. Many of you knew my brother, Eugene J. Coltrane, who transferred once or more from the Quaker to the Methodist Church and vice versa. I married a Methodist girl and that accounts for the fact that I have for forty years and more had my membership in the Methodist Church. However, I have great respect for the Society of Friends and what they have stood for down through the years. The American Friends Service Committee has made and continues to make a great contribution to the Civil Rights Program.

Many months ago our former Governor Sanford recognized that the Negro's petition for a change of custom to improve his citizenship status was just and had to be recognized. He, therefore, proceeded to take steps to correct some of